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doubt in the works on the papal and imperial powers of the last mentioned men that the most strikingly original medieval theories of the state are found, but to write on that all-absorbing topic was not the purpose of Colonna. He wished to lay before the medieval prince (in this case the Dauphin of France, afterwards Philip IV.) the principles to be followed in governing a state. In stating these principles he followed Aristotle's *Politics* very closely and like most of his contemporaries he regarded the ideas of his master as too sacred to be added to or changed to any considerable extent.

The first of the three books, of which the work consists, treats of the "highest good" as the true end of the life of man and gives the moral precepts for the attainment of that end. The second book is devoted to the family, the education of children and the fundamental principles of household economy. In the third book is a comparative study of the various theories of the state held by the Greek philosophers, followed by a discussion of the best form of government, the nature of law and justice and the duties of a prince in peace and war. As contrasted with the *Politics*, most noticeably characteristic are the references to God and the Church.

The work has been carefully edited, but Dr. Molenaer has not shown sufficient familiarity with the best methods for the publication of texts. An introductory note as to the rules followed in editing the work, as to his use of brackets, parentheses and other signs would help the reader. Texts should be so presented that they can be read rapidly and with as few as possible interruptions by signs or references to foot-notes. At the same time, a text should read as its author meant it to read. If the author intended "que" (p. 3) and the copyist has put "qui," "que" should be put in the text and "qui" relegated to the foot-notes. The same principle holds good of any letters or words which ought to be omitted from or supplied in the text. The reader should never be sent to the foot-notes for the correct reading or be confused by allowing an incorrect reading to remain in the text.

JAMES SULLIVAN.

England in the Age of Wycliffe. By GEORGE MACAULAY TREVELyan, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. (London and New York : Longmans, Green and Co. 1899. Pp. xiv, 380.)

THE title of this work is somewhat misleading, since it treats of the political, social and religious conditions of England during the later years of Wyclif's life only. Six of the nine chapters are devoted to the years 1377-85, while the last two treat the history of the Lollards from 1382 till the Reformation.

The author has attempted the difficult task of writing a work addressed to the general reader, but which at the same time shall be a serious contribution to history. This popular aim has induced him to modernize the powerful English of Wyclif and Langland in his quotations, al-

though he has fortunately not taken the same liberty with Chaucer. But is Wiclif's English more difficult than Chaucer's? The same aim is responsible for a novel scheme of notes which is hardly an improvement on the usual plan. Footnotes contain nothing but citations to the authorities, while all discussion is confined to seventeen pages of notes and appendices. A commendable feature of the work is the insertion of three maps illustrative of the revolt in 1381 and the spread of Lollardry. The absence of a bibliography is noticeable, nor is an adequate substitute provided in the explanatory list of abbreviations, in which modern bibliographical requirements are not always met. Were it not better to make the abbreviation such as to convey the title of the book to the reader, as Mr. Trevelyan sometimes does, than to compel him to search for it in a list not alphabetically arranged?

On the whole, the work is a very creditable one, and a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the fourteenth century. Besides making good use of most published materials, the author has studied the unpublished sources of the Public Record Office, notably the Coram Rege Rolls and the Ancient Indictments.¹ Hence his book abounds in new information. While this is not so much true of the earlier chapters, owing to the paucity of materials not hitherto utilized, it is conspicuously so of those on the Peasants' Rising and the history of the Lollards. Want of space alone prevents us from enumerating some of these new facts brought forward.

Mr. Trevelyan writes a clear and easy style, seemingly influenced by that of his great-uncle. Some of his Macaulayisms, however, are not of unquestioned advantage, as, for example, the use of modern comparisons not always historically accurate,² and a sort of partisanship for the cause of Wiclif, which leads him to do scant justice to the Church.³ Occasional errors of detail occur, some of which are rather surprising.⁴

Unquestionably the best chapter of the book is that on the Peasants' Rising in 1381. Studies in the Public Record Office, together with the knowledge of a source used in Stow's *Chronicle*, and recently published by Mr. Trevelyan himself,⁵ enable him to give the best account of the events at London that has yet appeared. His method of handling the sources is satisfactory, though not entirely above criticism. Too much weight is sometimes given to the statements of Froissart, whose untrustworthiness in matters of detail is well known, while no use seems to

¹ Those not already published by M. Petit-Dutaillis (A. Réville, *Le Soulèvement des Travailleurs d'Angleterre en 1381*, Paris, 1898), will shortly appear in a small volume edited by Mr. Trevelyan in conjunction with Mr. Edgar Powell.

² For example, John of Gaunt, "at the head of a . . . hierarchy of knaves," is likened to an American party boss (pp. 10-12). He secures for them control of the privy council, where the "big deals" are made. But this view is based on hostile parliamentary petitions, in which unpopular ministers usually appear as traitors and knaves. See also the comparisons on pp. 35, 191.

³ Chs. 4-5.

⁴ See review in *Athenaeum*, April 1, 1899, p. 390.

⁵ *English Historical Review*, XIII. 509-522.

have been made of the important memorial issued by the authorities of London to commemorate the part of their mayor in suppressing the revolt.¹ In fact, Mr. Trevelyan does not seem to have made a sufficiently exhaustive use of the chronicle which we owe to his diligence. Its revelations on Tyler's important personal part in the negotiations at Mile End are well worthy of note, as are also the new demands of the insurgents recorded, especially one for the repeal of the statute of laborers.² Tyler's further requirements at Smithfield are equally important. Those of a religious nature provide that the goods of the clergy be seized and divided among the parishioners ; that the lands and tenements of possessors be divided among the commons of the realm ; and that the hierarchy, with the exception of a single spiritual head for the Church of England, be abolished.³ Such provisions surely deserve more than a passing notice⁴ in a work of which Wyclif is the most prominent figure.

GEORGE KRIEHN.

Margaret of Denmark. By MARY HILL. (London : T. Fisher Unwin. 1898. Pp. vii, 156.)

THIS book is an attempt to give to English readers a general account of Margaret of Denmark, queen-regent of the three Scandinavian countries. Following the lead of the older authorities, Miss Hill is disposed to rank Margaret as one of the great queens of history, and even finds her worthy of comparison with Alfred the Great. Undoubtedly Margaret had some elements of greatness, but they certainly were not of the quality that excite our sympathetic admiration for Alfred. Although the opportunity was not wanting, she stood for no great idea. She might have welded the three Scandinavian countries into a mighty empire, and this is what the general student of history thinks that she did, but this empire was of the most superficial character. The union which she effected was based on the most short-sighted dynastic policy. Her main efforts were directed toward the fortification of royal authority in Denmark and the extension of her realm. In these things she was very successful under seemingly adverse circumstances, although much of her vaunted strength no doubt lies in its contrast with the weakness of opposing forces. She was, however, a crafty queen who ruled a large realm with subtle astuteness and sagacity, but not with broad-gauged wisdom. Her success was in a large measure made possible by a series of more or less accidental combinations, and by the general national impotence, and the political and social anarchy that characterized the latter half of the fourteenth century in Scandinavia.

¹ The author accepts Froissart's tale of the insolence of the insurgents toward the queen-mother in the Tower and her escape by water to the Wardrobe (p. 237). But we know from the testimony of the official city record (Riley, *Memorials of London*, 449), and from Mr. Trevelyan's own chronicle (p. 517) that she accompanied the King at Mile End. Other doubtful instances are pp. 226, 232, 244 n. 2.

² *English Historical Review*, XIII. 517.

³ *Ib.*, 519.

⁴ P. 220.